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AMCONSUL STRASBOURG/BY POUCH

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 4 PARIS 20143

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR FR PINT

SUBJECT: FRENCH INTERNAL POLITICAL SCENE-- JUNE 1976

SUMMARY. THE WORST DRAUGHT (SINCE 1921) AND THE WORST HEAT WAVE (IN OVER A CENTURY) FOUND FRANCE WATCHING BOTH MAJORITY AND OPPOSITION INDULGE IN THE NOW-CUSTOMARY SUMMER SQUABBLES. PRIME MINISTER CHIRAC, EMBARRASSED BY GAULLIST REFUSAL TO GIVE FULL SUPPORT TO THE GOF'S PROPOSED CAPITAL GAINS TAX BILL, SPENT A WEEKEND IN CONVERSATION WITH GISCARD BEFORE RALLYING ENOUGH OF HIS PARTY TO PASS THE BILL. WHILE THE PRESIDENT APPEARS TO HAVE GIVEN HIS PRIME MINISTER A VOTE OF CONFIDENCE, CHIRAC'S TEMPORARY GLORY AS MAJORITY COORDINATOR AND ANIMATOR MAY HAVE BEEN TARNISHED. IF THE OPPOSITION REGARDED UDR DEFECTIONS OVER CAPITAL GAINS WITH SOME AMUSEMENT, THE LEFT'S SMILES VANISHED WHEN THE COMMUNISTS STARTED STILL ANOTHER SET OF SUMMER ATTACKS AIMED AT RE-ESTABLISHING PCF CREDENTIALS AS THE ONLY "LEGITIMATE" FORCE IN THE UNITED LEFT AND AS THE ONLY GUARANTEE THAT A LEFT GOVERNMENT WOULD APPLY THE ENTIRE COMMON PROGRAM. ALMOST LOST IN THE SQUABBLING WERE STATEMENTS BY GENERAL MERY, THE FRENCH CHIEF OF STAFF, WHICH SEEMED TO SOME OBSERVERS TO CHANGE FRENCH DEFENSE POSTURE. AFTER CAREFUL EXAMINATION, MOST POLITICIANS AGREED THAT THERE WAS NO CHANGE AND THAT MERY HAD ONLY EXPRESSED WHAT HAS BEEN A CONTINUING GOF POLICY. END SUMMARY.

THE MAJORITY

1. LETTING THE CRACKS SHOW: LONG SUSPICIOUS OF GISCARD'S REFORMISM, THE GAULLISTS FOUND THE ORIGINAL VERSION OF THE GOVERNMENT'S CAPITAL GAINS TAX BILL TOO LARGE TO SWALLOW (PARIS 17324). ALTHOUGH AN ATTENUATED VERSION OF THE HIGHLY TECHNICAL BILL FINALLY PASSED, THE UDR HAD, AT VARIOUS POINTS IN THE STRUGGLE AGAINST IT

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-- DEMONSTRATED ONCE MORE THE POWER OF ITS OLD GUARD TO SLOW DOWN IF NOT BLOCK REFORM LEGISLATION;
-- ALLOWED THE OPPOSITION TO GLOAT AT THE SPEC-TACLE OF SOME 70 UDR DEPUTIES SIGNING A PUBLIC PROCLAMATION AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT'S BILL (EVEN THOUGH ONLY 10 ACTUALLY VOTED AGAINST THE AMENDED BILL);
--DEMONSTRATED TOO THE UDR'S SYTLISTIC DIFFERENCES WITH GISCARD.

2. THE UDR HAS CRACKS TOO: MANY VETERAN OBSERVERS BELIEVE THAT THE UDR HAS DEMONSTRATED THE EXTENT TO WHICH IT IS A COMPROMISE BETWEEN THE OLD GUARD, WHICH SEEKS TO AVOID SUBSTANTIAL CHANGE IN FRANCE, AND THE NEW, WHICH TAKES GAULLISM TO BE A PROMISE OF A NON-COLLECTIVIZED, YET PROGRESSIVE FRANCE. THE DIVISION WAS CLEARLY SYMBOLIZED ON JUNE 10, WHEN 22 YOUNG DEPUTIES FROM ALL THREE GROUPS IN THE PRESIDENTIAL MAJORITY ANNOUNCED THE CREATION OF A GROUP TO PROPOSE POLICY ALTERNATIVES FOR THE TRANSFORMATION OF FRENCH SOCIETY. THE UDR DEPUTIES WHO JOINED THE GROUP WERE THE IMMEDIATE TARGETS OF AN INTENSIVE SEDUCTION CAMPAIGN FROM THE MATIGNON, WHICH IS REACTING WITH INCREASING NERVOUSNESS TO MOVES BY MINISTERS OF JUSTICE AND INTERIOR LENANUET AND PONIATOWSKI TO SEEK CLOSER COOPERATION BETWEEN THE INDEPENDENT REPUBLICANS AND THE CENTER.

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3. CRACKS GET BIGGER UNDER PRESSURE: BEHIND MOST OF THE CONTROVERSY OVER THE CAPITAL GAINS TAX MEASURE WAS A COMPLEX SET OF POLITICAL FEARS. THE UDR, WHICH PRESENTLY HAS 174 SEATS IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, IS REACTING TO A NUMBER OF POLLS AND ESTIMATES WHICH SUGGEST THAT IF ELECTIONS WERE HELD TODAY IT MIGHT LOSE AS MANY AS HALF ITS SEATS. THREATENED AT ITS ROOTS, AWARE THAT IT IS NOT PARTICULARLY CLOSE TO GISCARD'S REFORMISM AND YET UNABLE TO CHART ANY INDEPENDENT COURSE, THE UDR APPEARS TO BE VACILLATING BETWEEN ESTABLISHING AND INDEPENDENT VOCATION AS FRANCE'S CONSERVATIVE PARTY AND REALIGNING ITSELF MORE CLOSELY WITH GISCARD AS A TRULY INTEGRATED PART OF THE PRESIDENTIAL MAJORITY. THIS AMBIGUITY, IN TURN, IS CAUSING SOME UDR FIGURES TO QUESTION THE EXTENT TO WHICH PRIME MINISTER CHIRAC, IN HIS ROLE AS THE MAJORITY'S "ANIMATOR AND COORDINATOR" (PARIS 16503) IS BEING AN EFFECTIVE PARTY LEADER. ALTHOUGH CHIRAC IS DOING AN EXCELLENT JOB OF LOYALLY SERVING THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC, SOME UDR DEPUTIES ARE SAYING THAT HE IS-- AND MUST, GIVEN HIS PRESENT ROLE-- BETRAYING THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE PARTY. CHIRAC HAS, IN TURN, TOLD SEVERAL DEPUTIES THAT THE UDR MUST TIGHTEN ITS PARLIAMENTARY DISCIPLINE IN SUPPORT OF THE PRESIDENT.

4. CHIRAC -- THE PIGEONS ARE COMING HOME TO ROOST:
UNDER FIRE FROM HIS OWN TROOPS, CHIRAC ALSO SEEMS TO HAVE GONE THROUGH A PERIOD OF DIFFICULTY WITH HIS BOSS.

PARIS RUMORS HAD THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE PRESIDENT, AT LOGGERHEADS OVER ISSUES AS IMPORTANT AS CAPITAL GAINS AND ELECTION LAW REFORM, AND AS SMALL AS ARMY PARTICIPATION IN SUMMER FESTIVALS, WITH GISCARD'S MAIN IRE BEING DIRECTED AT CHIRAC'S "FAILURE" TO DELIVER, EARLY IN THE DEBATE, A SILENT, COHESIVE MAJORITY ON THE CAPITAL GAINS TAX BILL. ON JUNE 5-6, CHIRAC AND HIS WIFE SPENT A WEEKEND WITH THE PRESIDENT AND MADAME GISCARD AT THE SUMMER ELYSEE IN BREGANCON. VERY FEW DETAILS OF THE MEETING HAVE BEEN LEAKED, BUT IT APPEARS THAT CHIRAC

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CONTINUE TO ENJOY THE PRESIDENT'S CONFIDENCE EVEN THOUGH HE HAS NOT SIGNIFICANTLY ALTERED HIS STYLE (SEE PARIS 17796). ON HIS RETURN TO PARIS, CHIRAC ENHANCED HIS STANDING AS LEADER OF THE UDR AND RE-EMPHASIZED HIS VALUE TO GISCARD BY RALLYING NEARLY ALL OF HIS PARTY'S DEPUTIES IN THE FINAL VOTE TO PASS THE CAPITAL GAINS BILL, WHICH HAD BECOME THE EARNEST MONEY OF GOF INTENTIONS ON REFORM. THE NET RESULT OF ALL THE MANEUVERING DURING JUNE HAS BEEN TO RE-EMPHASIZE THE DELICATE EQUILIBRIUM BETWEEN PRESIDENT AND PRIME MINISTER. GISCARD HAS EFFECTIVELY COOLED THE TREND THAT BEGAN AFTER THE CANTONAL DEFEAT IN MARCH WHICH PROJECTED CHIRAC AS THE MAJORITY'S POLITICAL LEADER. IN SHORT, CHIRAC HAS BEEN REMINDED THAT HE IS THE NATION'S NUMBER TWO AT THE SAME TIME THAT GISCARD HAS EXPRESSED HIS CONFIDENCE IN HIM; SIMULTANEOUSLY, THIRAC, BY DELIVERING ON THE CAPITAL GAINS BILL, HAS REEMPHASIZED GISCARD'S NEED FOR THE PRIME MINISTER AS A MEANS OF KEEPING THE UDR IN LINE.

THE OPPOSITION

5. LOOKING FORWARD TO THE MUNICIPALS: MOST OF JUNE PASSED IN A FLURRY OF UNION OF THE LEFT ACTIVITIES DESIGNED TO PREPARE UNITED LEFT STRATEGY FOR THE 1977 MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS. A SUMMIT MEETING OF LEFT LEADERS IN MID-MONTH PROVIDED AN INTERESTING LOOK AT THE RELATIVE STRENGTHS OF THE TWO MAJOR PARTNERS: THE COMMUNISTS (PCF) CEDED TO SOCIALIST (PS) WISHES IN GIVING TO DEPARTMENTAL FEDERATIONS THE RIGHT TO NEGOTIATE THE UNITED LEFT LISTS WHICH WILL BE PRESENTED TO THE VOTERS. THIS MOVE, LONG A GOAL OF THE MODERATES IN THE PS, DEMONSTRATED AGAIN THAT MITTERRAND CAN AND DOES CONTROL HIS PARTY WHEN THE CHIPS GO DOWN -- THE PARTY'S FAR LEFT WAS NOT EVEN HEARD TO COMPLAIN. BUT MORE IMPORTANT, THE FACT THAT THE COMMUNISTS GAVE IN TO SUCH A GIRONDIN SOLUTION SEEMS TO BE INDICATIVE OF THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE PCF FEELS A NEED OF PS SUPPORT. THE AGREEMENT DOES NOT BY ANY MEANS MEAN THAT THE PCF AND PS

HAVE RESOLVED THEIR DIFFERENCES OVER ELECTORAL STRATEGY;
IT MERELY TRANSFERS THE BATTLE TO THE DEPARTMENTS WHERE
THE FIGHTING COULD BE EVEN TOUGHER. ANOTHER ASPECT OF
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THE COMPROMISE PPROVIDES FOR TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE
RESULTS OF THE 1976 CANTONALS AS WELL AS THE 1973 LEGIS-
LATIVE ELECTIONS IN DECIDING THE COMPOSITION OF NEXT
YEAR'S LISTS. THE PS WILL THUS BE ABLE TO TAKE CREDIT
FOR ITS RECENT ELECTORAL ADVANCES.

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6. THE POLLS - GOOD NEWS AND BAD: THE PS WAS DELIGHTED BY A SOFRES VALEURS ACTUELLES POLL WHICH SUGGESTED THAT 50 PERCENT OF THE FRENCH DO NOT BELIEVE THAT FRANCOIS MUTTERRAND IS A MARXIST AND THAT 48 PERCENT OF THE FRENCH DO NOT BELIEVE THAT MITTERRAND, HAD HE WON IN 1974, WOULD HAVE CREATED "A COLLECTIVIZED FRENCH SOCIETY." EVEN MORE INTERESTING TO THE PS, FULLY 43 PERCENT OF THOSE POLLED DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THE PCF DEMONSTRATED ANY PARTICULAR SINCERITY IN RENOUNCING THE DICTATORSHIP OF THE PROLETARIAT. AT MID-MONTH, HOWEVER, A RUMOR WAS GOING AROUND PARIS WHICH HAD THE PS RECEIVING THE RESULTS OF A POLL WHICH IT ITSELF HAD PAID FOR: IN THE CASE OF ANTICIPATED LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS, THE UNION OF THE LEFT WOULD FALL SOME 15 SEATS SHORT OF AN ABSOLUTE MAJORITY IN THE CHAMBER. WHILE NO ONE WAS WILLING TO CONFIRM THE RESULTS - OR EVEN THE EXISTENCE - OF THE POLL, THE FIGURES WHICH IT ALLEGEDLY PRODUCED ARE WITHIN THE MOST CONSERVATIVE LIMITS OF ONE OF A RECENT MINISTRY OF INTERIOR POLL.

7. THE PCF AND THE PS - SHINKICKING: IN A REPORT TO THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE, PCF FOREIGN AFFAIRES HEAD JEAN KANAPA

CRITICIZED WESTERN SOCIAL-DEMOCRACIES FOR COLLABORATION WITH CAPITALISM;

SUGGESTED THAT A LEFT GOVERNMENT SHOULD SIGN A NON-AGRESSION PACT WITH THE SOVIET UNION;

ARGUED THAT FRANCE SHOULD LIMIT ITS DEFENSE TO THAT REQUIRED TO DEFEND FRENCH NATIONAL TERRITORY;

PROPOSED THAT FRANCE CONSIDER RENEGOTIATING ITS
ADHERENCE TO THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE.

WHY RAISE THIS KIND OF TROUBLE NOW, AS THE FRENCH PRE-
PARE FOR THE ANNUAL BEACH CONVENTION THEY CALL VACA-
TIONS? IT IS LIKELY THAT THE PCF WANTS, FIRST, TO
REMIND VOTERS THAT IT IS THE SOLE GUARANTEE THAT A
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UNITED LEFT GOVERNMENT WOULD APPLY AN UNWATERED COMMON
PROGRAM AND, SECOND, TO LET THE COMMUNIST FAITHFUL HEAR
A FEW TOUGH WORDS AFTER MONTHS OF POST-XXIIND-CONGRESS
REVISIONISM. EQUALLY IMPORTANT, THE PCF MOVES ARE
AIMED AT ONE OF THE WEAKEST LINES OF FRACTURE OF THE
PS. ALTHOUGH MITTERRAND AND THE MAJORITY MAY BE ABLE
TO IMPOSE THEIR ELECTORAL STRATEGY ON THE SOCIALISTS,
NO ISSUE DIVIDES THE PS MORE THAN THE QUESTIONS OF
DEFENSE, NATO AND THE PROPER ROLE OF FRANCE IN EUROPE.
WHILE MITTERRAND ONLY HAD TO SUBDUE THE CERES (PS LEFT
WING) TO GET AGREEMENT ON ELECTORAL ISSUES, DEFENSE
QUESTIONS BREAK THE PARTY INTO A LEAST FIVE MAJOR
CAMPS, RANGING FROM PS INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY ROBERT
PONTILLON'S "NEO-GUALLISM" TO A DEMAND FOR PS ENDORSE-
MENT OF UNILATERAL DISARMAMENT.

8. THE PS-GRACE UNDER FIRE: THE SOCIALISTS WERE
MORE THAN USUALLY CLEVER IN AVOIDING THE PITFALLS WHICH
KANAPA HAD CREATED. ASKED ABOUT THE PROPOSAL TO RENEGO-
TIATE FRANCE'S NATO ALLEGIANCE, MITTERRAND RESPONDED
THAT HE DID NOT SEEK SUCH RENEGOTIATION AND THAT HE
BELIEVED A LEFT GOVERNMENT WOULD HAVE TO WAIT TO HEAR
THE PROPOSITIONS - IF ANY - WHICH THE OTHER ALLIED
GOVERNMENTS MIGHT MAKE TO IT. IN SUBSEQUENT PRIVATE CON-
VERSATIONS HIGH PS LEADERS TOLD EMBOFFS THAT

THE PS HAS BEEN UNABLE TO AGREE TO A PARTY-WIDE
DEBATE ON DEFENSE AND SECURITY MATTERS;

SOCIALIST SPOKESMEN WERE DOWNPLAYING THE SIGNI-
FICANCE OF THE MERY STATEMENTS (PARIS 15993
DTG 011825Z JUN) BECAUSE, AS PS INTERNATIONAL
AFFAIRS PONTILLON SAID, "THEY CAUSED US NO
PAIN WHATSOEVER-THEY JUST RESTATED WHAT HAS
BEEN FRENCH POLICY ALL ALONG;"

PS DEFENSE SPOKESMAN CHARLES HERNU, WHO HAD
WANTED TO ACCUSE KANAPA AND THE PCF OF NAIVETE
(FOR NOT UNDERSTANDING THAT FRENCH NATIONAL
DEFENSE COULD NEVER IMPLY AN ISOLATED FRANCE),
HAD BEEN TOLD BY THE PARTY'S DIRECTING COMMITTEE
TO TONE DOWN HIS ATTACK.

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9. WHO WON? WHO LOST? THERE WERE NO BIG WINNERS AND NO BIG LOSERS AS A RESULT OF THE PCF MOVES. TO THE EXTENT THAT IT CAME IN THE MIDDLE OF THE WORST FRENCH HEAT WAVE SINCE THE METEOROLOGICAL OFFICE STARTED KEEP-ING RECORDS, THE PCF ATTACK WAS A BRIEF SENSATION WHICH PASSED OVER THE HEADS OF VACATION-BOUND FRENCHMEN. FOR THE POLITICAL CLASS, THAT MYTHICAL GROUP OF 50,000 FRENCHMEN WHO ARE DIRECTLY CONCERNED WITH THE NATION'S POLITICS, THE ENCOUNTER WAS A REMINDER THAT PS/PCF RELATIONS HAVE BEEN DETERIORATING FOR SOME MONTHS. "WATCHING THE PCF REVERT TO STREETFIGHTING TACTICS," SNEERED ONE SOCIALIST DEPUTY, "IS BECOMING THE BEST EARLY SUMMER SHOW IN PARIS." BUT THE PCF'S MOVES DID REMIND THE POLITICIAN WATCHERS THAT THE PS CANNOT CON-TINUE TO RUN AWAY FROM ITS OWN AMBIGUITIES FOR VERY MUCH LONGER. AT SOME POINT, IF PS LEADERS WANT TO CONTINUE TO PROJECT A RESPONSIBLE IMAGE, THE PARTY WILL HAVE TO COME TO A UNITED, PARTY-WIDE DEFENSE AND SECURITY POSITION. UNTIL THEN, ITS LACK OF COHESION WILL CON-TINUE TO BE A WEAKNESS WHICH THE PCF WILL NOT HESITATE TO EXPLOIT.

A FEW ISSUES OF NOTE

10. GISCARD-MERY -- FOR A NUMBER OF REASONS, OPPOSITION LEADERS FOUND IT CONVENIENT TO IGNORE, IN LARGE MEASURE, GENERAL MERY'S STATEMENTS (PARIS 15993; PARIS 16236 DTG 040751 JUN). FOR THE PS, THE ISSUE HAD ALL OF THE SAME PRICKLY THORNS AS THE PCF ATTACK; IT SEEMED BY FAR THE BETTER PART OF VALOR TO SUGGEST THAT MERY WAS ONLY RESTATING WHAT THE ENTIRE COUNTRY HAD ALREADY ACCEPTED IN THE YEARS UNDER DE GAULLE AND POMPIDOU. FOR THE PCF, IT WAS ONLY A FURTHER PROOF OF GISCARD'S ATLANTI-CISM. EVEN THE UDR, NOT ANXIOUS TO HAVE A NEW HOT POTATO IN ITS HANDS, TOOK THE LINE THAT GISCARD AND MERY HAD ONLY REPEATED, IN SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT WORDS, THE TRUISMS OF CLASSIC FRENCH DEFENSE POLICY. UDR SECRETARY GENERAL YVES GUENA, AFTER PAYING A MUCH-PUBLICIZED

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CALL ON GISCARD, TOLD REPORTERS THAT HE WAS NOW CON-VINCED THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO CHANGE IN FRENCH DEFENSE THINKING.

11. THE HEAT WAVE ... SUFFERING THROUGH THE WORST HEAT WAVE IN OVER A CENTURY, FRANCE HAS SUDDENLY SLOWED DOWN. ALTHOUGH THAT HAPPENS EVERY SUMMER, THIS YEAR THE BREAK COMES PARTICULARLY EARLY. THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY JUST ENDED ITS SESSION, PARISIAN OFFICES AND FACTORIES ARE STILL TRYING TO WORK AT FULL SPEED AND THE HEAT WAVE HAS DONE NOTHING TO MAKE EITHER OF THOSE MORE PLEASANT. STILL, THE HEAT WAVE HAS BROUGHT SOME COMPENSATION. CROWDS OF PLEASED MALE ONLOOKERS HAVE DISCOVERED THAT TOPLESS SWIMMING IS PERMITTED AT ONE OF THE TWO FLOATING SWIMMING POOLS MOORED IN THE SEINE AND EASILY OBSERVED FROM THE STREETS ALONG THE RIVER. THE ELYSEE POLICE GUARD HAS BEEN ALLOWED TO DISPENSE WITH TIES (BY THE PERSONAL ORDER OF THE PRESIDENT). AND PARISIANS IN GENERAL SEEM INCLINED TO SLOW DOWN, TAKE THINGS EASIER AND GO INTO A STATE OF SUSPENDED ANIMATION WHILE WAITING FOR SUMMER TO COME. IN THE MEANTIME ONLY THE BUSDRIVERS, FURIOUS OVER WHAT THEY CLAIM ARE 140 (SIC) DEGREE FAHRENHEIT TEMPERATURES IN THEIR CABS, A SMALL NUMBER OF POLICE INSPECTORS, IRKED OVER A MINISTRY OF INTERIOR INVESTIGATION INTO THE ACCIDENTAL KILLING BY TWO POLICEMEN OF A PARIS SUBURBANITE, AND THE DANCERS OF THE PARIS OPERA, UPSET OVER PRIME MINISTER CHIRAC'S DICTUM THAT THE OPERA MUST AGREE TO A CEILING ON SALARIES, ARE ENGAGED IN JOB ACTIONS.

12. ... AND THE DROUGHT: FAR LESS AMUSING IN ITS CONSEQUENCES HAS BEEN THE DROUGHT WHICH HAS BOILED AWAY VILLAGE PONDS ALL OVER FRANCE. FARMERS CURRENTLY SLAUGHTERING LIVESTOCK AS FEED GETS BOTH SCARCE AND EXPENSIVE, ARE THE FIRST GROUP TO FEEL THE EFFECTS, BUT THE ENTIRE COUNTRY WILL SOON BE HEARING MORE ABOUT THE DROUGHT (WHOSE DAMAGE IS ESTIMATED AT \$5-6 BILLION FRANCS SO FAR FOR CEREAL PRODUCERS ALONG) THAN IT PERHAPS SHOULD. ONE GOVERNMENT ECONOMIST GLOATED THAT "THE DROUGHT WILL MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR US TO EXPLAIN TO THE FRENCH PEOPLE WHY PRICES ARE GOING TO KEEP RISING FOR THE REST OF THE

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YEAR." AND, IN FACT, THAT EFFORT HAS ALREADY BEGUN. AS VARIOUS MINISTERS MAKE WELL-PUBLICIZED TRIPS TO THE MOST AFFECTED PARTS OF FRANCE, IT BECOMES INCREASINGLY CLEAR THAT THE NEXT STEP IN THE PROCESS IS GOING TO BE SOME MEASURE OF INCREASED GOVERNMENT AID TO FARMERS AND LIVESTOCK GROWERS WHICH ALREADY RECEIVE 12-14 PERCENT OF THE NATIONAL BUDGET.

13. POTPOURRI: RUMORS CONTINUE THAT THERE WILL BE A MAJOR CABINET RESHUFFLE AROUND THE END OF THE SUMMER. WHILE WE HAVE NO HARD DATA TO BACK THIS UP, IT IS WORTH

NOTING THAT BOTH PS AND PCF HAVE ISSUED ORDERS TO
NATIONAL OFFICIALS TO TAKE THEIR VACATIONS BEFORE THE
15TH OF AUGUST. EQUALLY INTERESTING IS THE SUGGESTION
MADE BY SOME WELL-INFORMED JOURNALISTS WHO BELIEVE THAT
GISCARD WILL MAKE AN IMPORTANT SHAKEUP AT THE ELYSEE
SOMETIME IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS. FEW NAMES ARE BEING
TALKED ABOUT, ALTHOUGH RUMORS HAVE PIERRE-BROSSOLETTE
LEAVING THE ELYSEE TO TAKE OVER A MINISTRY.
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